BACK to the WEST

From left: Tim, Stephen, Andrew, Captain Gwilt and Betty (Peter and June are absent).

"You see that little town over there?"

"I know, don't tell me. You conducted a mission there once?"

Above is part of a conversation which I have heard several times, while travelling with Captain Richard Gwilt and other Officers, in various parts of Australia.

During almost all of his 27 years as an Evangelist in the Church Army, Captain Gwilt has been a part-time Missioner. He has visited small and large parishes in many dioceses, to present the Message of the Gospel in special week-long programmes.

MISSION VANS: Itinerant work on mission vans was still very much the scene in the Church Army, when Captain was commissioned in October 1951. Like many other Officers, he roamed the countryside, conducting children's and adult evangelistic missions.

PARISH EVANGELISM: He had a brief experience of work in a parish, when he married in 1952 and went to Mount Hawthorne, W.A. for 18 months. He and his wife have four sons - Peter(married to June), Stephen, Andrew and Timothy.

ADMINISTRATION .... At the beginning of 1954, Captain joined the Church Army Headquarters Staff, and a few months later was appointed as Staff Officer - responsible for Officers' appointments and their welfare.

.... AND INDUSTRIAL CHAPLAINCY: While at Headquarters, he became involved in a ministry which was very much in its early days at that time - industrial chaplaincy. He began by visiting the State Dockyard in Newcastle, once or twice a week over the lunch period. When Headquarters moved to Sydney, he visited the Australian Aluminium Company (now Alcan Australia Ltd.) at Granville.

ACROSS THE TASMAN: At the beginning of 1964, Captain and his wife and sons went to New Zealand for 5 years, where he served as the Director of the N.Z. Church Army. Their youngest son, Tim, was born there.

BACK TO AUSTRALIA: And this time to succeed the Rev. Captain A.W. Batley, as Federal Secretary of the Australian Church Army. Being Leader has led him to wear a number of 'hats'.

As the *"Chief Executive Officer"* of the Board, he has been involved in all aspects of the administration and general running of the Society.

Pastoral care of Officers and their families has always been a priority for him, and he has shown his concern for them in many ways. For a while he put on his 'Staff Officer hat' again, as well as being Federal Secretary.

He has passed on his own knowledge and experience through lecturing at the College on "personal evangelism" and sharing other aspects of what it means to be an evangelist.

As a *deputationist*, he has sought to excite and encourage others to participate in the ministry of evangelism through prayer and financial support.

CALLED TO BE AN EVANGELIST: Uppermost at all times has been the conviction that God called him to be an evangelist, and this is apparent to all who know him.

Parish evangelistic missions and personal encounters with people have always been there, to challenge people to personal commitment.

In the last couple of years, he has taken part in a programme in the local parish, to train and involve lay people in evangelism. He was a participant, not a leader - because of his desire to be involved at every level in sharing the Good News with those around him.

His wife, Betty, has stood by and supported him in their life and ministry together and I know they look forward to the new area of work through his chaplaincy at Fremantle Gaol.

Captain joined the Church Army from Western Australia, he married a Perth girl and his first appointment as a married Officer was in the West. Now they are returning to that State to embark on a ministry that will be challenging and exciting.

I asked Captain Gwilt to write down his own thoughts at this time, as he concludes his work as leader of the Society and prepares to begin a new ministry.

When I joined the Church Army 27 years' ago, I quite expected it would be my life's vocation. Therefore, it came as a surprise when I found myself having to face the idea of leaving the Society and considering the possibility of ordination. How this came about is a long story but basically it came out of a growing conviction that the time had come to hand over the leadership to some-one else and to seek a different type of ministry. At the same time it became clear to me that God was leading me to prison ministry and ordination. The opening for this came in the Perth Diocese. It is interesting that it was from Perth that I joined the Church Army in 1951.

It is not easy to express my feelings about leaving the Church Army, in which I have spent just over half my life. However, I am looking forward to a ministry less involved with administration and far more involved with people and their needs. There is a feeling of regret and strangeness at leaving the Society and my friends and colleagues. But this is counter balanced by my conviction of the rightness of the move and I have keen anticipation of the new ministry awaiting me.

All this involves yet another major upheaval for the family and separation from some family members. We commit this to God and believe for His blessing and promises in every way.

My thinking at this time includes a sense of confidence in the future of the Society and a conviction that the new Director is clearly God's choice. I believe there are exciting days ahead for the Church Army in Australia and I am truly grateful for having had the privilege of serving God in the Society over many years.

YOUTH AND AGED

Captain John Harding is working in the Parish of St. George, Hurstville. It is his first appointment and he began there in February 1977.

WE ARE NEVER TOO OLD OR TOO YOUNG TO KNOW JESUS. I FIND THAT MY MINISTRY AT ST. GEORGE'S, HURSTVILLE COVERS A WIDE AGE RANGE - FROM INFANTS' SCRIPTURE CLASSES TO MINISTERING TO THE AGED IN CONVALESCENT HOMES AND WITHIN THE PARISH.

The past 21 months seem to have flown. It has been a tremendous experience for me to be working with the Rev. John Brook (my Rector) and the regular times of prayer and Bible study together have been very beneficial.

KEYNOTE CLUB Following the Church Army Conference at the beginning of this year, the idea of Keynote Club came to me. In May it became a reality and now meets every Thursday afternoon in our flat for an hour. It is primarily a Bible Study group, based on the Scripture Union "Key Notes" booklets.

Those who attend are from 11 to 13 years old and Joan (my wife) and I have found the interest of these children in Jesus gradually growing.

Keynote Club is a fun way for young people of this age to discover more about the Bible, an exciting way for them to learn more about themselves and ideal in showing how the Bible relates to everyday experiences.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP is for young people 14 or older and in this group, although small in number (about 20), the few active Christians are showing that they are the future leaders.

The social side of the programme is planned so that it doesn't "put a hole" in parents' pockets and helps the youth get to know each other better as people.

Bible studies are held every fortnight and at present there are three groups. They study topics for a period of 3 or 4 sessions, and then the groups switch around.

GUITAR GROUP Out of the Fellowship Group a guitar group has started, and, although my musical talent is non-existent, the Lord has provided a qualified music teacher who is prepared to help them. The group have sung at a few services and Parish teas, and, as the year rolls on, their talents will be used more and more, not only in worship, but also in sharing with others the joy of Jesus through music.

BIBLE BREAKERS is another off-shoot of the Youth Fellowship. It started after our first Camp in May, when four of the girls wanted to know whether a group could be run for their age, similar to Keynote Club. After a few different trial periods, we have set the time at 7.00 a.m. on Saturday mornings! We meet for some toast and coffee and then move into prayer and Bible Study, finishing at 8.30 a.m.

FRIDAY

THE COLLEGE OF EVANGELISM:

The Principal, The Rev. G.L. MacRobb, Mrs. MacRobb, Michael & Katrina.
All Lecturers. *The Cook,* Mrs. S. Allen.
Candidates' Committee and our need of suitable candidates.
Second Year Students: Wendy Ferguson, Mark Rogers, Len Taylor (N.Z.).
First Year Students: Jenny Dawson (N.Z.), Jenny Thomson, Carol Tokley, Phillip Jackson.

* *

Please pray for...

CAPTAIN GILBERT PAGE (and his wife and family) as he arrives in Australia to begin work as the new Federal Director of the Church Army in Australia - as from the 1st January, 1979.

THE REV. CAPT. RICHARD GWILT (and his wife and family) as he moves to Western Australia, and begins work as Chaplain at Fremantle Prison.

DISABLED CHILDREN'S CAMP 21 - 26 January, 1979, at Springwood, N.S.W. (Director, *Sister Pat Free,* and other staff, including Church Army Students *Jenny Thomson* and *Phillip Jackson*).

CONFIRMATION CAMP 23 - 25 February, at Gunundi Conference Centre, Ballina, for Lismore Parish *(Led by Captain Kevin Cullen).*

YOUTH OUTREACH 1 - 4 March. Kilcoy, Dioc. of Brisbane *(Captain K. Cullen)*

PARISH MISSION 11 - 18 March, Parish of Cooma, N.S.W. *(Captain K. Cullen)*

PARISH MISSION 1 - 12 April, Parish of Weipa, Qld. *(Captain K. Cullen)*

VISIT TO DIOCESE OF TASMANIA 10 - 17 February, 1979, Hobart & Launceston.

DEPUTATION SERVICES 21st January, at Retirement Villages, Castle Hill, N.S.W. *(Captain B. Mattinson)*

INFORMATION AFTERNOON 21st February, at Retirement Villages, Castle Hill, N.S.W. *(Captain B. Mattinson)*

A THOUGHT FOR CHRISTMAS

"BABE OF BETHLEHEM - "Kneel before the Babe of Bethlehem. Accept the truth that the Kingdom of Heaven is for the lowly, the simple.

"Bring to Me, the Christ-child, your gifts, truly the gifts of earth's wisest.

"*The Gold* - your money.
"*Frankincense* - the adoration of a consecrated life.
"*Myrrh* - your sharing in My sorrows and those of the world.
"'And they presented unto Him gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh.'"

(From the daily devotional, "God Calling" - available from our Bookshop)

NEW OFFICERS

Wendy Ferguson, Mark Rogers and Len Taylor have just completed their training in the Church Army College of Evangelism. By the time you read this, Wendy and Mark will be Australian C.A. Officers, and Len will be about to be commissioned as a New Zealand Officer. Here they share their thoughts at this time.

Hi! (from Wendy)

Two years of training drawing to an end. What has really happened in those years?

Len, Mark and I have been named many things, from the "Pied Pipers" to "the trinity"! That, I guess, may give you an idea of who we are - Len on the bag-pipes, Mark singing and playing the guitar, myself singing - seeking through many ways to tell others what Jesus means to us!

If I had the opportunity to share something about God, in just a few words, it would be to say 'that God is really real'! This is exciting and good news to me - that God is not just a fact we learn about, He is alive and real, Some-one to Whom we can relate.

That is the God I wish to present to others. Not just the God Who lived 2,000 years ago, but the God Who is alive and active in the world today.

ROUGH STONES .... KISSING FROGS .... AND WATER WALKING (from Mark)

An evangelist! I jumped at the idea at first. It sounded exciting. Now, I've found it exciting in a different sense.

Much of the work has been hard-sailing. However, College has provided me with an atmosphere in which God has enabled me as well as stimulated my intellect. College family life is something like rough stones in a riverbed, rolling the rough edges off each other that they may live together in peace.

Initially, I felt very unsure of myself, though now I'm confident to try anything He entrusts to me. It's a little like the frog in the story who was turned into a prince. Jesus loved me like that princess loved the frog, and He has called me to do the same for others.

Experience in parish ministry, missions, youth ministry, religious education and evangelism have been the most frightening steps - like those Peter first took out of the boat onto the water, knowing the Master was out there to walk to.

And I *know* that He will be there .....

FROM LEN *Who likes exams? I don't! And College life has been one of mixed feelings, finding exams a difficult chore. But it was great to be able to escape amongst the wild flowers, the little streams, the yabbies, birds, goannas and gum trees on the odd occasion.*

The highlight of the training has been my practical work at St. Saviour's South Sydney and Redfern. How mighty it has been to share something of the Lord Jesus, in a semi-detached role, with the 'down-and-outs' of society - not only with words, but also with the hands. The richest blessings have come from "sitting where they sit", loving the unlovely, bringing hope to the hopeless, regardless of colour, race or creed.

With the past two years of training behind, one feels more than ready to step out into an exciting and challenging future. But how did it all start?

In May of 1972, after searching for many years for some meaning in

THANKS & CONGRATULATIONS !

For the past few years, the Church Army has been served well by its Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Kevin Llewellyn. He is a qualified accountant - at present working for The Scripture Union, at its Federal Office, in Sydney. Unfortunately, Mr. Llewellyn recently had to tender his resignation as Treasurer, though he still serves on the Executive Board of the Church Army.

We are very sorry to lose Mr. Llewellyn's services as Treasurer, but we are very pleased with another piece of news from him recently. He has announced his engagement to be married - to Miss Joan Rowley.

So we take this opportunity to say 'Thank you' for the generous way he has served the Society, and 'Congratulations' and 'Best Wishes' for the future.

THE CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA

P.O. BOX 107, FRENCH'S FOREST, N.S.W., 2086

PRESIDENT: The Most Reverend Sir Marcus Loane

PATRONS: The Archbishops and Bishops of Australia

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FEDERAL DIRECTOR: The Rev. Captain R.L. Gwilt, C.A. (Captain G. Page, C.A., as from 1st January, 1979)

EDITOR OF "THE PIONEER" & STAFF SISTER: Sister P.A. Free, C.A.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER & STAFF CAPTAIN: Captain B. Mattinson, C.A.

PRINCIPAL OF COLLEGE OF EVANGELISM: The Rev. G.L. MacRobb, Th.L., Dip.R.E., Dip. Min.

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104 Donnison Street, Gosford, N.S.W., 2250

MANAGER OF BOOKSHOPS: Captain N.A.R. Payne, C.A.

THE WORLD WIDE CHURCH ARMY: The Church Army was founded in England in 1882, by Prebendary Wilson Carlile. It is a lay Society of men and women Evangelists of the Anglican Communion. Other autonomous Societies were founded in the U.S.A. in 1927, Canada 1928, Australia 1934, New Zealand 1935, Eastern Africa 1962, Jamaica 1969. Officers from some of these Societies are also at work in Germany, South America, South Africa, Belize Cyprus, West Pakistan and Italy.